



# West L. A. Connections

Where **N**urturing **E**mpowerment **W**elcoming **S**ervice Happens!

A Monthly Publication of the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

July 2013

## West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

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Los Angeles, CA 90025  
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Email: [wlaumc@aol.com](mailto:wlaumc@aol.com)  
Website: [www.wlaumc.org](http://www.wlaumc.org)

### Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9AM to 1 PM

### Pastors' Office Hours:

Rev. Gary: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM  
Rev. Janet: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM  
Rev. Becky: Sat, 10 AM to 12 PM

### Sunday Worship Services

#### ◆ 9:30 AM

English Language Worship  
Child Care and Sunday School

#### ◆ 10:30 AM

Fellowship Time for both congregations

#### ◆ 11:00 AM

Japanese Language Worship

### Staff

**Rev. Gary Oba**, Senior Pastor  
Email: [obagary@gmail.com](mailto:obagary@gmail.com)

**Rev. Janet Cromwell**, Associate Pastor  
Email: [jlcromwell8@gmail.com](mailto:jlcromwell8@gmail.com)

**Rev. Rebecca Hirata**, Local Pastor  
Japanese Language Ministry  
Email: [pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp)

**Lina Yamaguchi**,  
Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator  
Email: [wlaumc@aol.com](mailto:wlaumc@aol.com)

### Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is to promote spiritual growth - Building a community of faith and making disciples of Christ by reaching out with compassion, forgiveness and love. At West LA UMC, building a community of faith is what we are about.



We have had a number of deaths in our congregation recently. They have all gone to be with the Lord. Each of these persons was at one time an active member of our church. Their families' loss is our loss, and along with them we mourn their passing.

The church's ministry at the time of death is perhaps the most important thing we do. We often turn our attention to the more joyous occasions such as births, baptisms, and weddings. But at no other time does the gospel come to life than at the time of death.

At a memorial service or funeral, we thank God for the grace that has been evident in the deceased person's life. At death, we name the Christian hope of life after death. We proclaim that as God raised Jesus from the dead, so too will God raise us from the dead. To survivors we say the God of compassion will wipe away every tear. These are but a few of the affirmations we make on the occasion of a death.

Death also helps us put life in a proper perspective. Death reminds us of our own mortality. Whether we are a saint or sinner, we will all someday die. Given this, death causes us to reflect on such matters as the values or beliefs we are expressing by the manner in which we live. What changes do we need to make so as to be ready when the time comes for us to meet our Maker?

Death brings sadness but also reflection and hope. It leads us to give thanks to God for the great mystery of life and death.

With unshakeable faith,

**REV. GARY OBA**

Senior Pastor

# Prayers

Connecting and Nurturing through Prayers

*As a community of faith, we support one another through prayer. To add or remove a prayer request, please contact one of the pastors or the church office.*

## **We give thanks to God and rejoice for:**

- Those recovering from recent surgery.
- For the two youth who confirmed their faith and joined the church on May 26, 2013.
- Newlyweds.
- Social Action Commission members for providing refreshments in June.
- Those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and other personal milestones.
  - Those who prepared and served the meal for PATH on June 10.
- The work accomplished at the Cal-Pac Annual Conf.
- The Youth Group, Band and Dave Cook for leading the Worship Service on Father's Day on June 16.
- The WLAUMC mission team on the Faith UMC mission trip to Ishinomaki, Japan.
- Students who have graduated or culminated this year (see page 4 of this newsletter for the list).
- The families and individuals who are temporarily or permanently relocating out of state or out of the country.
- Guests and friends attending West LA UMC.

## **We pray for those seeking healing and comfort:**

- To the family and friends of those who have passed away.
- To those in hospice care.
- To those unable to attend church.
- For all those with on-going health issues.
- Peace for our community and nation.

## **Lectionary Readings for July**

*These readings serve as the foundation for the Wednesday morning Bible Study and Sunday morning Worship Services. By reading these scripture lessons during the week, you can prepare your heart and mind for Sunday worship.*

Jul 7	2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30	Galatians 6:1-6 (7-16) Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Jul 14	Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82	Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37
Jul 21	Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 or Psalm 82	Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42
Jul 28	Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85	Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19) Luke 11:1-13

## **West LA Prayer Ministry**

Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, a group prays for persons on the church's prayer list. If you would like to be a part of this prayer ministry but are unable to meet at the church on Thursday mornings, please contact Lina Yamaguchi, Church Secretary at 310-479-1379. An updated prayer list will be emailed to you.



# Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Studies

## July 9:30 AM Worship Services

**July 7 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Family Worship / Holy Communion**  
Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20.  
Theme: Jesus sends us out on his behalf.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.  
Children remain in worship.

**July 14 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Vacation Bible School Sunday**  
Ms. Jeri Okamoto Floyd and VBS participants  
will lead worship based on the lessons learned  
throughout the week!

**July 21 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Joint Worship Service at 10:30 AM  
All Church Picnic following Worship at  
Rancho Park**  
Rev. Becky Hirata preaching.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

**July 28 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship with Praise Band**  
Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Luke 11:1-13.  
Theme: How and why we pray.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

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## **Let's "Proclaim the Word" A Refresher Course**

This time we will meet on a Sunday! Come and join us on July 14, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Room 1.

This meeting is for everyone who wants to participate in worship services as a liturgist or scripture reader. Whether you're very experienced or just beginning, there's something beneficial for you in the Proclaiming The Word "refreshers" offered by Pam Sase Ryder and Jack Ong. Even seasoned public speakers can benefit from new tips while refreshing our skills in an informal, encouraging and informative setting.

Everyone is invited to practice and support the new proclaimers. One participant said, "The practice sessions are fantastic, I now get so much more when I read and hear the scriptures."



## Sunday School and Bible Studies

### **Children's Sunday School**

Sunday School is the perfect place and time for children to learn about God, the life of Jesus, and important lessons in the Bible. Children of all ages will enjoy these Sunday School classes:

- Toddlers Nursery (located next to the sanctuary)
- Grades K-5 Explorer Room 3
- Grades 6-8 Trekker Room 2
- Grades 9-12 Youth Room 8 (located upstairs)

### **Women's Bible Study Group**

Mondays 1:00 to 2:30 PM in Room 9.

In July, we begin a series on the theme "God's People Worship" with lessons from the book of Isaiah. The women take turns leading the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. New members welcome.

### **Summer Book Study**

Tuesdays, July 16 and 23, 7:00 PM in Room 2.



This summer, we will discuss "Revealing Heaven: The Christian Case for Near-Death Experiences" in a two-session Book Study on Tuesday evenings, July 16 and 23, 7:00-8:00 PM. In his book, Rev. John Price makes the case for how near-death experiences can be gifts from God and are fully compatible with Christian spirituality and the Bible. Please

purchase the book online or from your favorite book store, and then join us for this fascinating and reassuring Book Study. See Rev. Janet Cromwell for more information.

### **Men's Bible Study Group**

The Men's Study Group is on recess until further notice. For future meetings, contact Fred Hifumi.

### **"Alive Now" Study Group**

Wednesdays, 9:00-10:15 AM in Room 2.

This study focuses on the lectionary text that will be the basis for Sunday's sermon. (See page 2 of this Newsletter for a list of scripture lessons.) New members are always welcome. See Rev. Gary Oba for more information. Will not meet on July 31.

### **Thursday Bible Study**

The Thursday evening Bible Study is taking a break in July and August, and will resume on September 5, 7:30-9:00 PM in the Learning Center.

# Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship



### **West LA Youth Room**

The Youth Room provides a comfortable meeting place for our youth during Sunday School and VBS. Thanks to Elaine Sunoo, Kay Yang, Lina Yamaguchi, and Rev. Janet Cromwell for cleaning the Youth Room on May 24 in preparation for VBS and the Bazaar.

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### **Asian Camp**



West LA UMC is proud to be sending five youth to Asian Camp at Camp Sierra, July 28 – August 2

The youth wish to express their appreciation to the congregation for the many generous contributions to the Asian Camp Scholarship Fund.

The youth will share insights from Asian Camp during worship in August.

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### **4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mini-Golf Outing**

Sunday, July 14, After Worship

What fun! Students who have recently completed 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades are invited to play Mini-Golf at Mulligan Family Fun Center in Torrance on Sunday afternoon, July 14. The group will leave from the church following worship. In addition to mini-golf, the youth will also choose from go-carts, a rock wall, laser tag, paddle boats and an arcade. Ticket prices are approximately \$12.00 per person.

Please see Sharon Kinoshita Gill and Sharon James for more information and to register.

### **Vacation Bible School**

July 8-12, 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

We look forward to this year's Vacation Bible School entitled "Everywhere Fun Fair: Where God's World Comes Together!" Each day, children will learn what it means to be a good neighbor.



Volunteers arrive at the church at 9:00 AM, with children arriving at 10:00 AM. The program begins in the sanctuary and ends at 1:30 PM after lunch.

VBS Worship will be held on Sunday, July 14 at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary. The children and youth look forward to sharing songs and stories from their special week together.

See you at the Fair!

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### **2013 Culminations and Graduations**

Congratulations to our children, youth, and young adults who have achieved milestones in their education this spring!

# Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World

## GO GREEN!

Habits good and bad are developed through frequent and/or conscious repetition. Here are some green tips we should turn into good habitat-friendly habits...

- Check out your bathroom. Use low-flow faucets, showerheads, and toilets.
- Start a compost bin in your back yard or on your rooftop.
- Buy locally made foods and products. Buy in season.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs and Energy Star products.
- Turn off lights and electronics when you leave the room. Unplug your cell phone charger from the wall when not using it. Turn off energy strips and surge protectors when not in use (especially overnight).
- Recycle your newspapers. Consider reading your newspaper and magazine subscriptions online to save paper. Switch to electronic banking and credit card payment, too.
- Car pool.
- Ride a bike, walk, jog or run.
- Go to your local library instead of buying new books.
- Get off junk mail lists. GreenDimes.com can get you started. They'll even plant a tree for you!
- Buy products that use recyclable materials whenever possible.
- If you use plastic grocery bags, recycle them for doggie poop bags or for small trashcan liners.
- Bring your own bags to the grocery store. Given a choice between plastic and paper, opt for paper.
- Consider organic cleaning products like vinegar, borax, and baking soda.
- Landscape with native plants.
- Teach kids about the environment.

Going green is good for all of us! Share your green tips by sending them to [jack@jackong.com](mailto:jack@jackong.com).

*By Jack Ong*



REUSE! REDUCE! RECYCLE!

## Something to Consider. . .

"You should sit in meditation for 20 minutes a day unless you are too busy; then you should sit for an hour!" Pausing to spend time in prayer is always a good thing!



## STOP HUNGER NOW

### Volunteer August 3 at Westwood UMC

United Methodist Churches on LA's West Side are joining together to package 50,000 meals on Saturday, August 3! Your help is needed!

**Stop Hunger Now** is an international program working to end hunger in our lifetime. Volunteers assemble dried meal packets that are sent to children and families around the globe who are impacted by drought, national disasters, and poverty. Each packet serves 6 people.

West LA is committed to sending 25 volunteers to Westwood UMC, 10497 Wilshire Blvd. on August 3! Set-up begins at 7:30 AM and packing begins at 9:00 AM. Please see Bob Bailey to sign up. Persons of all ages – children, youth, and adults – can all lend a hand.

Funds from the "Music Feeds the Soul" concert will be contributed to **Stop Hunger Now** or you can write a check to "West LA UMC" with a notation on the memo line.

### Meiji Gakuin Music and Meal

Thursday, July 25

West LA UMC looks forward to welcoming the Meiji Gakuin students for a musical program and meal at the church on Thursday, July 25, beginning at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary. These students enjoy speaking English with members of our congregation, particularly youth and young adults. Join us for this wonderful international exchange. Please see Keiko Takahashi for more information and to sign up to bring a potluck dish for the meal.

### Youth Leadership for PATH Dinner

The West LA UMC Youth Group will prepare dinner for PATH on Sunday afternoon, July 7, and serve the meal on Monday evening, July 8. Please see Emily Cook to volunteer to help with this important ministry of food preparation and service.



## Join the Summer Bell Choir!



We will be ringing Sunday Morning Worship Service on August 4. Come to Bell Choir practices on Sundays, July 7, 14 and 28 in Room 1 from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM. For more information, contact Pamela Ryder and Chris Heckman.



## Church Library Open Hours

The Church Library will be open for reading and borrowing books on Sunday, July 7 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Come and see recent additions to the Library, including four books by Joni Eareckson Tada (Aiko Inouye's niece), Asian American novels, and delightful children's books. Contact Jean Dote for more information.



## All Church Picnic

Sunday, July 21  
Noon to 4:00 PM  
Cheviot Hills Park



Summertime! Ain't it grand?  
On July 21, we will be enjoying our annual All Church Picnic!

Everyone is invited to the Joint English/Japanese Worship Service on Sunday, July 21 at 10:30 AM, followed by the All Church Picnic at 12:00 Noon at Cheviot Hills Park (Rancho Park, 2551 Motor Ave, off of Pico Blvd.). The picnic area is located on the hill near the tennis courts.

We will be grilling hot dogs and enjoying a delicious potluck lunch. Please sign up on the sheet in the Social Hall for potluck items you wish to bring.

Also, please consider donating small prizes for the Bingo game! Ideal prizes include fun items (stuffed animals or small toys), practical things (Kleenex, hand soap), nice things (plants, picture frames, etc.), food items (candy, senbei), and gift coupons in small denominations. Bring your donations to the church by July 14. Thank you for helping to make our Bingo game such a fun time!

Invite your friends and have a great day of food, games, prizes, crafts, and face painting. Fun for all!

## Cal-Pac Annual Conference

The California-Pacific Annual Conference was held at the University of Redlands, June 12-15. This year, West LA UMC was represented by Justin Yamaguchi, Stan Shimotsu, Rev. Gary Oba, Rev. Janet Cromwell, and Rev. Becky Hirata.

This annual meeting included worship, ministry reports, business sessions, and time for fellowship among United Methodist Church members. It was a joy to be led by Bishop Minerva Carcaño who was assigned to our Annual Conference last September. For the first time this year, the Conference included a lively Youth Night with music, worship, games, refreshments, and lots of fun activities.

In the coming weeks, our representatives will be sharing more information about this important gathering of United Methodists.



## Japanese Film Night

Friday, July 26, 7:30 PM

Japanese Film Night on July 26 will feature "Photo Album of a Village" aka "Mura no shashin-shu." The film was directed by Mitsuhiro Mihara in 2004, is 124 minutes long and in color. We will have Ms. Rei Suzuki as our guest speaker for the evening.

The movie starts at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Admission is free and open to the public.

Greg Shikata, Japanese Film Night Coordinator, provides an introduction to the film, including background information on the director and actors, at the beginning of each film.

We give thanks for Greg and Jean Shikata, and their son, David, for their marvelous ministry of providing culturally enriching films for our church and community members.





### **Jack Ong receives Golden Spike Award**

West LA UMC member Jack Ong was one of the recipients of the Golden Spike Awards presented by The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) at its 38th Annual Gala Dinner on May 18. The awards recognize businesses of New Chinatown and individuals who have actively participated and contributed to the local Chinese American community and culture. In the program booklet, Jack was recognized for his involvement with the CHSSC; acting roles on stage, TV and films; gifts as a writer; and involvement in church and humanitarian causes.

West LA UMC congratulates Jack upon receiving this award for "Excellence in Community Service".

### **Coffee Fellowship needs your help!**

**Learn more July 28, 11:15 AM**

Everyone enjoys Coffee Fellowship after worship! It is the ideal time to get a snack, relax with a cup of coffee, and chat with church friends.

For several years, we have been blessed by the gracious hospitality of Gregg Omori and Stacey Hirose who prepare coffee, plate refreshments, and clean up the kitchen on Sunday mornings. We appreciate all that they have done to support our congregation's Coffee Fellowship.

Now, you have an opportunity to provide hospitality and help during Coffee Fellowship! On Sunday, July 28, Gregg and Stacey are looking forward to training additional volunteers to assist on Sunday mornings. Please plan to join them in Room 2 at 11:15 AM to learn how you can help.

Stacey says, "Coordinating Coffee Fellowship enables you to meet people and serve others. The biggest reward is seeing people so happy. It brings people in our church together, which is so wonderful."



### **Join West LA UMC's Facebook Page**

Get the latest church news and prayer requests on Facebook. Just search for "West LA UMC" and "Like" us! You'll see photos of church activities and enjoy connecting with church friends.

Recently, the Facebook page added photos from the last year's Manzanar Trip, the Women's Retreat in April, Annual Conference and Imagine LA in June. The Facebook page also includes updates on the "Music Feeds The Soul" concert on July 20.



### **Annual Church Bazaar**

**Save the Date! September 28**

Our annual West Los Angeles United Methodist Church Asian Cultural Bazaar will be held on Saturday, September 28 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM with food, entertainment, children's games and crafts, a silent auction, plants, door prizes and cultural displays. Bring your friends and family to a joyful day of faith, food, music and more!

For more information and to volunteer to help, please contact Stan Shimotsu, Doug Yamaguchi, or Sonia Dixon.

**WATTS TOWERS and the SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR**

The Tanoshimi-Kai had a wonderful visit to the Watts Towers and the Endeavor on June 8, 2013. There was a sharp contrast in the technologies used between the two exhibits.

Mr. Simon Rodia, an Italian immigrant, spent more than 30 years to construct the Towers. He used simple hand tools – hammers, handsaws, chisels, files, trowels, yardsticks – to construct the Towers from scraps of metal rods, glass bottles, tiles, wire, and concrete. He hauled rocks from a site about three miles away for the flooring. He used the railroad track as a tool for bending the metal rods into the various shapes of circles and arches that he needed for his design. He did not use drawings but the design was in his head. There are no welds used to join the metal rods in the entire structure. Mr. Rodia tied the joints with wire and then concreted the metal rods and the joints.

The Endeavor was designed and built 35 years later with technologies vastly improved in Engineering and Manufacturing methods. We use Computer Aided Design (CAD), laser measuring devices, new materials such as ceramic heat shields, titanium, aluminum, carbon composites, advanced electronics, static and dynamic testing, and numerical controlled machines that shape and form the sophisticated structural pieces. There were thousands of Engineers, Technicians, Machinists, and other supporting trades that were involved in the Endeavor.

Simon Rodia's creative mind, based upon what he remembered while growing up in Italy, led him to design and build the Watts Towers. The need to ferry into space various payloads such as Communications and Scientific Satellites resulted in NASA's vision to create the Space Shuttle.

*Submitted by Otto Nakano*

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**United Methodist Family Night at Dodger Stadium**

Friday, July 26, 2013 at 7:10 PM

United Methodists from throughout the Cal-Pac Annual Conference will gather at Dodger Stadium on July 26 to see the Los Angeles Dodgers play the Cincinnati Reds. Discount Tickets are \$20.00 per person and includes a Dodger dog and soda. A portion of your ticket price (\$3.00) will benefit the Cal-Pac Summer Camp Program. Before the game, four United Methodist kids (between 6-14 years of age) will be selected for "Kids-Take-The-Field" with a Dodger player. Following the game, enjoy free fireworks show! If you are interested in attending, please contact Lina at the church office before Friday, July 12, 2013.



**Fran Ellis Celebrates a Century of Memories, 'A Good Life' and 'No Regrets!'**

"I've had such a good life, and no regrets!" smiles Fran Ellis as she celebrates with her church family after worship services on the day after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Then she adds, with that happy trademark "Fran twinkle" in her eyes: "But it was kind of touch-and-go there last month," making light of recent health issues with which she successfully dealt.

Frans first memory is watching over her 3-year old brother, James, as he rode his bike on the sidewalk. A less happy memory: spending a year bedridden with tuberculosis when she was six.

"No school for me a whole year," Fran recalls. "I had to sleep on a very cold sleeping porch. I remember later moving to our first house with electric lights, indoor plumbing and a furnace...WOW! The 20s and 30s were terrible times: the Depression lasted so long. No money and no jobs. Everyone was so sad, and food was hard to come by. My brother quit school and worked, and our mother joined FDR's WPA, sewing." (President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration provided paid jobs for millions of unemployed Americans.)

Fran's century of reminiscences also includes the Wright Brothers and their airplanes, the Lindberg kidnapping, silent newsreels at the movies, and the first "talkie," Al Jolson in "The Jazz Singer."

"What a revolution in sound!" Fran says enthusiastically. "I loved movies with Mary Pickford and her blond curls, and Tom Mix and Hoot Gibson and cowboys and Indians."

When she was 17, Fran learned to dance. "That's how I met my husband, Mike's dad." (Fran and her son Mike are both longtime, very active WLAUMC members.) "We met in 1941 at a USO dance. During WWII, we traveled around until he went overseas."

Fran remembers party line telephones, the first TV sets, watching the first moon walk on television, and her first plane ride a trip with son Mike to Mexico to visit a friend. "That started a round of trips back and forth to the Midwest and eventually Europe, when Mike was traveling for work in the 90s," she says.

"I still love to travel and I've kept my love of dancing. I just don't do it anymore!" Happy Hundredth Birthday to you, Fran! God bless you!

*Submitted by Jack Ong*



# United Methodist Women

Women Learning, Growing, and Serving Others

## WELCOME TO UMW

We are pleased to welcome another new member to WLA UMW, Jeri Okamoto Floyd. We are especially happy to have new members join UMW because they will infuse the group with fresh and innovative ideas. We welcome all women to partnership in our organization.

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## BINGO TIME AT KEIRO

It's time for UMW's annual Bingo session at South Bay Keiro in Gardena on Sunday, July 14, 2013 from 1:30 to 2:30 PM. Each year the residents look forward to playing Bingo and winning prizes that we donate. UMW members look forward to eating lunch before the Bingo session.

Please RSVP to Co-Chairs Fusako Hamamoto or Kathi Yamazaki by Sunday, July 7, if you would like to join UMW for a dim sum lunch at Sea Empress at Pacific Square in Gardena. After the morning worship service on July 14, we will carpool, leaving the church by 11:00 AM for lunch at 11:30 AM, after which we will be ready to play Bingo with the Keiro residents at 1:30 PM.

At the same time, please let Fusako or Kathi know if you have small prizes that you wish to donate, such as stuffed animals, picture frames, small potted silk flower arrangements, t-shirts and baseball caps for men, etc. Please, nothing breakable like glass or pottery.

We welcome you to join us for a mutually rewarding afternoon.

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## ARIGATO!

Many thanks to all the UMW members and volunteers who made delicious strawberry jam and baked goodies for our STRAWBERRY JAM AND BAKED GOODS SALE on Sunday, May 19, 2013.

Thanks to everyone's support and generosity, we were able to raise over \$800.00 for the mission trip to the Tohoku area in Japan still recovering from the disastrous earthquake and tsunami of March 2011.

UMW treasury supplemented the fund and we were able to send support to benefit the people of Ishinomaki. Thank you to WLAUMC's mission team for bringing aid and comfort to the people of Ishinomaki. ARIGATO EVERYONE!

## "A SUMMER TEA" IN AUGUST

UMW members are planning "A Summer Tea," on Saturday, August 24, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM for all the women of West LA UMC.



A luncheon including delectable tea sandwiches, scones, quiche, fruits, cookies and, of course, tea, will be served. We invite attendees to bring your own favorite teacup and, if you wish, to dress up with hats and gloves.

Special guest speaker, Margaret Olsen, M.D., will illuminate "Skin Tips from Head to Toe," or in other words, all we ever want to know about skin care from a dermatologist's view. Eleanor Nakano, a long time patient of Dr. Olsen, states that Dr. Olsen offers simple and effective solutions to skin problems in a forthright manner. In practice over thirty years, Dr. Olsen, among numerous other appointments, serves as the Chief of Dermatology at St. John's Hospital, mentors UCLA residents at Santa Monica Hospital/UCLA and is Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at UCLA Hospital.

"A Summer Tea" is a time for fun, fellowship and food not just for UMW members but for all women of West LA UMC. There is no charge however, seating is limited so entrance will be by ticket only. Tickets will be available after English worship service beginning Sunday, July 21, until they are gone. If after receiving a ticket you find you are unable to attend, we ask your cooperation in returning the ticket so that someone else can attend. Thank you for your consideration.

Please join us for this special event!

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The international United Methodist Women's Assembly will be held in Louisville, Ky., at the Kentucky International Convention Center, April 25-27, 2014, with an optional, pre-event Ubuntu Day of Service on Thursday April 24. Registration for Assembly will begin August 1, 2013. For more information and to register, <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/assembly/>.



**Altar Flowers in June**

*We give thanks to those who donated flowers to grace the sanctuary during worship.*



**2012 Apportionment Giving Certificate**

At the 2013 Annual Conference held in Redlands in June, West LA UMC was recognized for paying 100% of our apportionment giving to the Annual Conference. Our church can be proud of our contribution to the many ministries supported by the Cal-Pac Annual Conference, including campus ministry, camping, missions, and our helpful Conference Staff.

Thank you to all of our West LA members and friends who generously support the ministries of The United Methodist Church.

**New Members**

On May 26, two youth confirmed their faith and joined the church. As a part of the confirmation process, each youth wrote a Personal Statement of Faith that they read during the worship service.

*Youth #1:* I believe in God who is the creator of the universe and father of Jesus Christ. I believe in Jesus who is the son of God and the spiritual guidance in our lives. I believe in the Holy Spirit that is part of the holy Trinity and what keeps faith alive in people. I believe the Bible is the record of God and Jesus Christ's deeds, and a tool for spiritual clarity. I believe in the church that is a loving community and family, who helps the misfortunate and supports people in times of need. In response to God's presence in my life I believe I am called to walk the path that God has called me to, to help and care for others, and to do the best I can in all things I am called to do.

*Youth #2:* I believe in God who is accepting and forgiving of all things, and who loves without limits. I believe in Jesus who is a teacher and leader for everyone who is lost or shaken in themselves. I believe in the Holy Spirit that is part of the soul that heals and lives in everyone. I believe the Bible is a book that celebrates the life of Jesus and the works of God. I believe the church that is kind and loving; a place of safety for anyone who needs guidance or anything in their lives.

The congregation is blessed when young people make the decision to claim the Christian faith as their own and choose to join the church. May they know that they have a faith family at West LA UMC that will always welcome them home!



**Music Feeds the Soul:  
Benefit Concert for Food Justice  
Saturday, July 20  
4:30-9:00 PM**



# JAPANESE MINISTRY

## 「吉田亀太郎」②

先月のニュースレターに、石巻で最初の教会を始めた吉田亀太郎牧師の話を書いた。若い亀太郎の人生が一転してしまうのは、パーム師の伝道者養成所に入ってからである。亀太郎は、3日だけ伝道者養成所において、4日目にはさようならをするつもりであった。

塾に入って次の朝、パーム先生から「下に患者さんがいます。メッセージをお願いします。」と、言われた。医者であったパーム先生は、診察を始める前に神様の御言葉を語ってから治療をしたのである。

それが毎朝続いた。亀太郎は、3日間だけ伝道者になるという約束は忘れ、ただただ、もう熱心にメッセージの事ばかりを考えていた。

それが1ヶ月、1年、そして50年以上になってしまった。

これは、樺の下社より出版されている東北伝道開拓記「吉田亀太郎追憶集」に書かれている。機会があれば読んでみると大変勉強になる。神さまに心をとらえられて熱心な伝道者になり、祝福の道を歩む証である。

この原稿を書いて、これから石巻へミッションに行く。石巻に熱心な伝道者がいたこと。そして、その曾孫が私達の教会で礼拝を守って、今もしっかりと信仰を継承していること。全てが素晴らしい。主に感謝してミッション奉仕に参加したいと思う。

平田

## “Kametaro Yoshida”

Last Month, I talked about Pastor Kametaro Yoshida who started Ishinomaki church in 1885. When Kametaro entered Dr. Palm's school, his life changed.

Young Kametaro wanted to attend Christian worker training school only for 3 days then quit. But, God had a different plan for him.

On his second day at the training school, Dr. Palm asked Kametaro to preach to his patients. (Before Dr. Palm saw his patients, he always shared about God.) This morning preaching time continued every day.

Soon Kametaro forgot about his initial intention to stay at the school for only 3 days. Instead, he kept thinking about how to preach and reach out to these people. This went on for one month, one year and for more than 50 years.

I read a book called “Yoshida Kametaro Tsuikushu” and learned about Kametaro's committed Godly life story.

As I am writing this article on June 3, I am also getting ready to leave for Ishinomaki Mission trip on June 17. I want to keep in mind that God provided a passionate preacher in Ishinomaki. And his great-grandchildren attend our church and keep the legacy of faith.

May His love touch Ishinomaki people.

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田

## Nichigo's July Calendar:

|           |        |                                |
|-----------|--------|--------------------------------|
| July 7    | 11:00a | Nichigo Worship                |
| July 8-12 |        | Vacation Bible School          |
| July 14   | 11:00a | Nichigo Worship                |
| July 20   | 4:30p  | “Music Feeds the Soul” Concert |
| July 21   | 10:30a | Joint Worship                  |
|           | 12:00p | All Church Picnic              |
| July 25   | 4:30p  | Meiji Gakuin Visitation        |
| July 26   | 7:30p  | Japanese Film Night            |
| July 28   | 11:00a | Nichigo Worship                |

## Joint Worship and All Church Picnic

Please mark your calendar for the combined English and Japanese Worship Service on Sunday, July 21 at 10:30 AM, followed by the All Church Picnic at Cheviot Hills Park.



Join us for “Music Feeds the Soul” a benefit concert for *Stop Hunger Now* and the UCLA Wesley Foundation Food Pantry on Saturday, July 20, 4:30–9:00 PM!

The West LA UMC Praise Band and five other bands will perform! Purchase dinner from one of the Food Trucks and dine on the patio. A Children’s Craft Table will be available 4:30–6:30 PM. Only \$5.00 at the door! Canned food donations are welcome. Invite your friends and come!

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## West LA United Methodist Church

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